

# The Houston Ship Canal (poem)

I been around the world  
From Bombay to Montreal  
But I'm proud to hang my hat  
On the banks of the Houston Ship Canal

Where the sweet smell of ethylene glycol  
And methylene oxide meet  
And the effluent streams of methanol  
Disintegrate your feet

Where toluene and styrene share a moonlight kiss  
And hydrochloric acid has an odor worse than piss  
Oh carry me back to the Houston Ship Canal  
Where fish sprout legs  
And dogs lay eggs  
And birds grow toes  
And Mother Nature holds her nose

On the banks of the Houston Ship Canal  
Where life is such a hoot  
To feel my boyfriend's tumors growin'  
Through his protective asbestos suit

One night my boyfriend kissed me  
As the dead fish went floating by  
And he whispered to me I love you  
But our respirators got in the way

We took a moonlight cruise  
On the styrene monomer barge  
By the petroleum tanks  
Where the gas leaks stank  
And it smelled real rank  
As we held our nose  
And it weren't no rose  
'Cause it curled our toes  
Where the radon beamed  
And the fishes screamed  
On the banks of the Houston Ship Canal